Tuesday, May 27, 2014

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MAYBE THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DIE IN THE WEST

FROM THE WEATHER, ACCORDING TO CHARLIZE THERON. FILMING SETH MACFARLANE'S WILD WEST SPOOF IN NEW MEXICO WAS LIKE BEING IN 'BIBLICAL TIMES,' SHE SAYS PAGE 9

Welcome to London: One in a Millennial

Development principles for the city over the next 20 years include the importance of attracting more people born between 1980-2000 PAGE 3

Icarus falls into The Forest City

Cirque du soleil's Varekai, a reimagining of the Greek myth of Icarus, is tumbling into Budweiser Gardens starting Wednesday PAGE 4

Habs hold hope in hockey hell

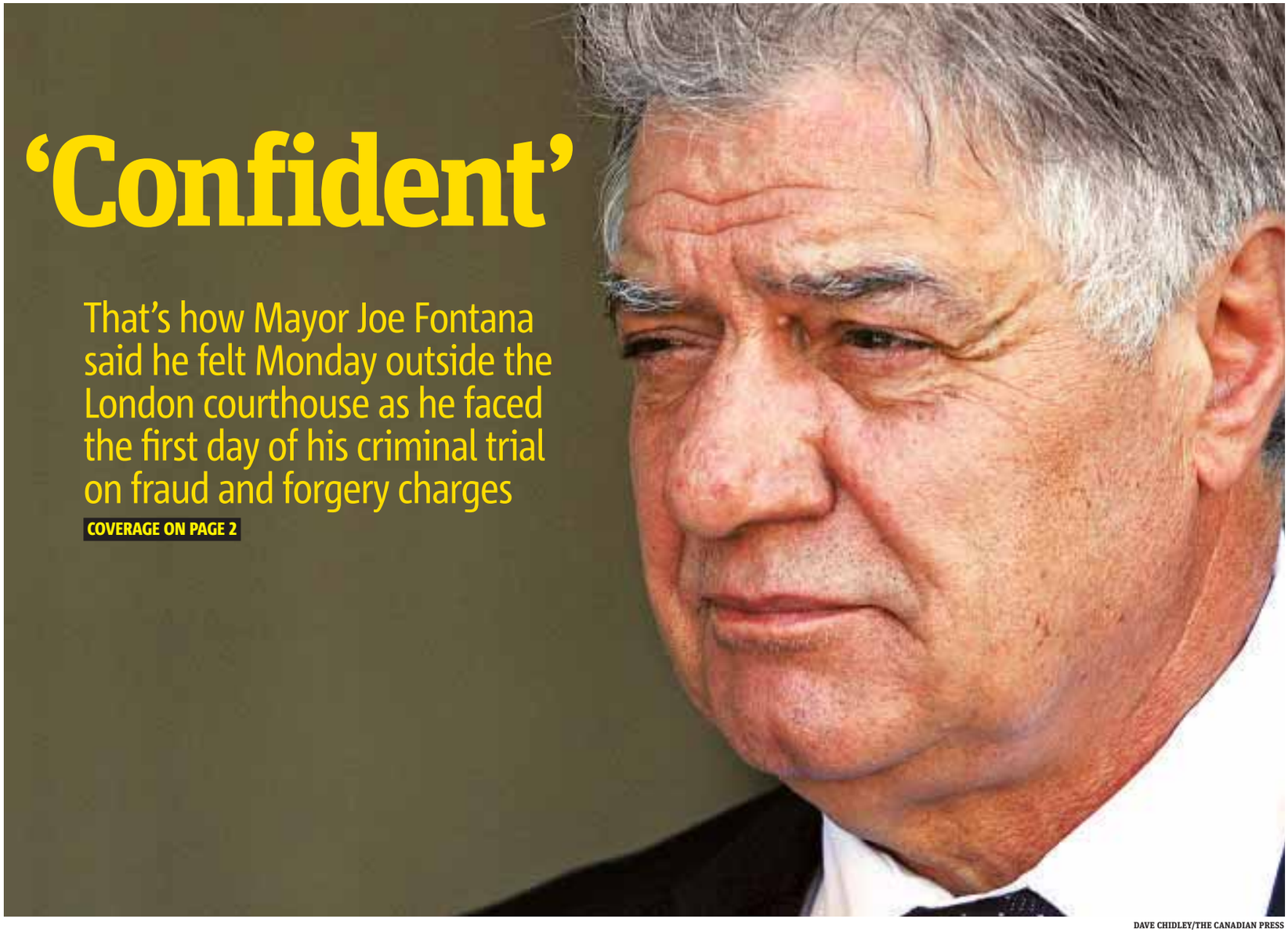
One loss away from elimination, veteran Canadiens players insist they've still got life against the Rangers PAGE 13

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

'Confident'

That's how Mayor Joe Fontana said he felt Monday outside the London courthouse as he faced the first day of his criminal trial on fraud and forgery charges

COVERAGE ON PAGE 2



DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court hears conversation between mayor, officer

Mayor Joe Fontana enters the London courthouse Monday with his wife, Vicky, left, and legal counsel. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Trial. Discussion was captured in a nearly two-hour interrogation video that was played Monday in court

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The night Joe Fontana turned himself in to the RCMP, he and the officer leading the investigation into his alleged criminal conduct chatted amiably for an hour.

They talked about growing up, their families and how kids today don't have the same kind of work ethic.

You'd think neither had a care in the world. Then, the conversation turned deadly serious.

RCMP Const. Shawn Devine told London's mayor he had been the subject of a long-running investigation that had been slow and methodical. The officers involved, Devin said, had been handpicked because of their professionalism.

He told Fontana the investigation began before the media reported allegations he had used taxpayer money to cover a deposit on his son's June 2005 wedding reception at the Marconi Club.

The conversation was captured in a nearly two-hour interrogation video that was played Monday in court, the first day of Fontana's trial on charges of fraud under $5,000, breach of trust by a public official and uttering forged documents. They all stem from a $1,700 cheque from Public Works Canada that Fontana — a MP and cabinet minister at the time — allegedly used to help cover the reception tab.

At the heart of the trial is a contract drawn up with the Marconi Club for the wedding, along with a doctored version of it that was sent to the government as an expense claim, the court heard.

Defence lawyer Gord Cudmore told Superior Court Justice Bruce Thomas that Fontana did alter the contract by changing the date, the word "wedding" to "reception" and by changing his wife's signature to his own.

There was also a sticky note on it that said "miscellaneous constituent reception."

The word "original" was scrawled across the top.

Cudmore said what matters is why the document was altered.

"We've never denied that," he said outside of court, referring to the alteration. "The purpose of what this trial is about is the purpose of that $1,700 cheque, not whether the document was changed or anything like that.

"(Why) was the document changed, what was the purpose of it and what was the purpose of the cheque? And that's what the trial's about."

Cudmore went so far as to say that it was all right to change a document and submit it for expenses "if it's done for a legitimate purpose."

Asked what that purpose was, he said, "You'll see."

Fontana on trial

- Mayor Joe Fontana's case is being heard, and will ultimately be decided, by a judge alone.
- The case is expected to continue daily through Thursday at the London courthouse.
- For updates from the courtroom, follow Metro's @TaylorInLondon on Twitter.

At a glance

Testimony timeline

Testimony in the first day of Mayor Joe Fontana's criminal trial was filled with, often conflicting, numbers and dates. Here's a quick look:

Oct. 20, 2004: Joe Fontana and wife Vicky book two rooms at the Marconi Club for the June 25, 2005, wedding of their son, Michael. They gave former general manager Joe DiPietro a $1,700 down payment.

Oct. 25, 2004: The $1,700 cheque is deposited by the Marconi Club.

March 2005: Fontana's legislative assistant in the House of Commons is given an altered contract from the Marconi Club to claim as an expense.

July 2005: The Marconi Club receives a cheque from Public Works Canada.

November 2012: The RCMP executes a search warrant in the House of Commons.

Nov. 21, 2012: Fontana turns himself in to police.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Follow Scott Taylor on Twitter @taylorinlondon

London calling to the Millennials

Future London. Chief planner wants to see more people born between 1980 and 2000 move to the city

MIKE DONACHIE
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Move over, baby boomers — there's a new group in the driving seat.

The millennials already make up a third of London's population and the city wants to bring in more. Many more.

Last week saw the unveiling of the London Plan at city hall, which came out of the ReThink London process and outlines development principles for the city over the next 20 years.

Among its big revelations was the importance of the millennials, and that a big part of the London Plan's purpose is to make the city appeal to them.

The document's principles and even its page layouts are designed to woo millennials.

"It is a group that we've been very eager to attract and retain in London," said chief city planner John Fleming, who led the creation of the London Plan. "Some of the work that I've done in the past showed that that was a demographic that on a net basis was leaving London."

That's bad news, especially while every city in North America wants more millennials. It's because they're a group that drives economic activity and their numbers are "rivalling or exceeding" the people who came from that post-war baby boom, Fleming said.

So, what do millennials want? Fleming's planning staff think they know.

Millennials aren't as focused on car travel as other sections of the population, they say, and want a higher level of service from public transit.

They're interested in environmental issues like climate change, and urban issues like regenerating cities' downtown areas.

They want heritage buildings protected, and they look for culture and entertainment in a city before deciding to put down roots there.

A big part of millennials' thinking is connectivity, Fleming said.

That means technology, transportation and face-to-face social interaction. One of the most forward-looking parts of the London Plan is a suggestion that the desire to be connected — through transit, public Wi-Fi and more — should be considered when the city invests in infrastructure.

Public participation continues for the London Plan, and there's a lot of information at thelondonplan.ca.

City council needs to agree to the plan, and it's not yet clear how council members will want it to change.

What's a millennial?

- Definitions vary, chief city planner John Fleming said. For planning purposes, city staff agreed to define a millennial as someone born between 1980 and 2000.
- Also, talking about population groups comes with a warning, he added. There are many generalizations involved in describing millennials, and the group contains exceptions to every statement made.

Quoted

"It's about attracting talent and investment to the community."

John Fleming, chief city planner, on the London Plan

A millennial looks for a signal in downtown London on Monday. Connectivity is one of the big issues for the millennials that London is trying to attract. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

City gets cold shoulder for crossing guard cuts

Cutting school crossing guards had a chilly reception at city hall Monday night.

Staff had put forward plans to remove crossing guards from nine spots across the city, while adding them at two more.

It was based on traffic surveys that showed not enough children used the crossings.

But, in response to a question from Coun. Denise Brown, staff said the surveys happened within the last three months. That means, she pointed out, they could have happened in cold weather when parents were driving their kids to school.

Community and protective services committee chair Coun. Matt Brown said he'd had calls from parents, school staff, school board members and others since the proposed cuts were made public.

"I think there's been a huge communication gap," he said, and people were "surprised" they weren't consulted. Brown formally proposed that consultation take place before any decision is made.

He had support from every councillor in the room, with Coun. Bill Armstrong saying consultation would be "prudent."

Couns. Stephen Orser and Bud Polhill called for the cuts to be cancelled outright, with Orser saying they would be "stupid."

The committee voted to send the issue to staff, who will prepare a consultation program.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

$22,000 worth of damage

No injuries after SUV crashes into Woodstock store

Police say an estimated $22,000 in damage was done Monday when an SUV crashed into a Woodstock business.

Officers were called to Shoppers Drug Mart (333 Dundas St.) just before 1:30 p.m. The vehicle crashed through the front of the store, police said, causing damage to the glass and the foundation.

The driver was identified only as a 68-year-old woman. No injuries were reported. METRO

Child porn. Local man charged after nine-year-old's parents contact police's cyber crime unit

A London man has been charged with child pornography offences after a nine-year-old girl's parents made a complaint to police.

London police's cyber crime unit investigated after the parents said someone had been interacting with the girl inappropriately online.

Police executed a search warrant Thursday at a Sussex Place residence.

Andrew Sywyk, 32, has been charged with possessing, accessing and making child pornography and two counts of telecommunication with a young person for criminal purposes.

METRO

Online

For more local and breaking news, visit metronews.ca

‘Share the celebration.’ Unleash your inner pianist

Anyone who’s ever tickled the ivories — and everyone else — is invited to the launch of a unique attraction in London.

It’s a piano, it’s out in the open air and it’s open to everyone, starting Wednesday.

“We’re launching London’s first outdoor community piano,” said Donna Szpakowski, president of the Hyde Park Business Association. “It’s a community open house.”

Full details of the musical initiative won’t be revealed until the launch event, but Szpakowski said the focus of the whole thing is on the community.

“We hope that people will share the celebration,” she said.

Although it will be open to anyone, that doesn’t mean anyone will be able to help themselves. The piano will be secured carefully to concrete.

“We’ve taken all the precautions we can,” Szpakowski said.

As for that big launch event, expect music. The business association is promising a talented pianist to try out the instrument, plus a performance by students from Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School.

But the real consequences of having a piano that anyone can play are clear: Somebody’s going to play Chopsticks.

Asked how long before that happens, Szpakowski laughed.

“About 30 seconds,” she said. **MIKE DONACHIE/METRO**

Details

- The community piano will have its official launch – or perhaps its overture – on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- It will be at the Hyde Park stormwater management pond (1695 Hyde Park Rd.). That’s north of Gainsborough Road, on the east side of Hyde Park Road.

Charges. Man accused of cruelty toward muskrat

A man has been charged with cruel treatment of a muskrat in north London.

The London Humane Society said Xiaoxing Chen, 67, is charged with causing an animal to be in distress. The animal involved died, the humane society said.

Details about what Chen is accused of doing have not been released. He’s due to appear in court June 30.

“The OSPCA does allow us to lay animal-cruelty charges whether it’s wildlife or domestic or farm animals,” humane-society executive director Judy Foster said.

All animals in Ontario are protected by the law, she said. **MIKE DONACHIE/METRO**

Cirque du soleil’s Varekai includes more than 600 costumes, shoes, wigs, hats and accessories, all needed to transform performers into creatures like this one found in the show’s magical forest. COURTESY TOMAS MUSCIONICO

Varekai takes flight

Cirque du soleil. This reimagined story of Icarus has landed at Budweiser Gardens

A magical forest at the foot of a volcano, and a young man’s struggle to earn his place in the sky.

This is the world of Cirque du soleil’s Varekai.

Varekai, opening Wednesday at Budweiser Gardens, means “whenever” in the Romani language. A reimagining of the Greek myth of Icarus, the story picks up where his fall from flight ended in a world of unique characters.

And behind the show’s scenes is a world in itself.

Details

- Varekai premiered in 2002 in Montreal and has since visited more than 72 cities in 20 different countries.
- The production is designed as a tribute to the “nomadic soul” and the spirit and art of the circus tradition.
- It runs Wednesday to Sunday at Budweiser Gardens. Check budweisergardens.ca for ticket information.

The backstage looks like a small, self-sufficient touring village. Among the strange props, weight benches and gigantic acrobatic swings, it’s not unusual to see people practising twists and turns in the air and making it look as easy.

It’s a global environment. Fifty-one performers and musicians of 18 different nationalities make up the cast, with another 50-plus crew members helping out.

Emily McCarthy, 18, is originally from England and since joining the show two years ago she has been the youngest member of the circus cast.

The self-described baby of Varekai, McCarthy’s excited to develop more as a performer, but she says life on the road with her castmates isn’t always easy.

“It’s like a family, but of course there is the language barrier,” she said.

Any miscommunications backstage disappear during the show.

One reason is long hours of practice and dedication that translate into flawless performances of athleticism on stage.

Plus, during the show, no one says anything you can understand. Rather, the cast speaks a made-up “Cirque” language intended to be universal.

The end effect is a dazzling spectacle, vibrant with colours and costumes set to thundering chants and live music.

The spectacle is something to behold. **DAVID INGRAM/FOR METRO**

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’07 Dodge Ram 2500	’07 Yam. V-Star 1100 bike	’07 Jeep TJ 4x4
’07 Chev. Uplander	’06 GMC Sierra Z71	’06 Dodge Gr. Caravan
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’05 Chev. Avalanche	’05 Chrys. PT Cruiser conv.	’05 Mits. Eclipse conv.
’05 Dodge Ram 1500	’04 VW Touareg AWD	’04 BMW 745i
’04 Sea Doo GTI PWC	’03 Harley Dav. Fatboy	’03 Cadillac Escalade EXT
’02 Ford T-bird conv.	’00 Mercedes SL500 conv.	’99 Mazda Miata MX5

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Memorial bench to honour victim of unsolved homicide

A memorial is planned Saturday to honour a London man whose 2012 murder remains unsolved.

During the 1 p.m. gathering, Jonathan Zak’s family will dedicate a memorial bench in his honour near the spot where his body was found in Northeast Park.

“The nature of his death has affected us all as a community, but it is my hope that by bringing Jonathan’s loving qualities to the forefront it will make a difference in a positive way for all of us,” his mother Jean said in a statement.

People can also make donations in Zak’s memory to a bursary through the Thames Valley Education Foundation. The bursary honours a Grade 11 or 12 student at Montcalm Secondary School who respects themselves and their peers and has a learning disability.

Jonathan Zak was found dead in May 2012 in Northeast Park. COURTESY LONDON POLICE

Zak’s body was found early on May 31, 2012, along a walking path on the east side of St. Peter’s Cemetery near Lord Elgin school on Victoria Street.

Police had been called to the area about six hours earlier for reports of gunshots and left after finding no evidence of a shooting. **METRO**

Memorial Cup numbers will not be a repeat of Saskatoon

The Cup Stops Here

Profits. Tournament expected to be financial success, despite early elimination of Knights

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Despite the lack of a home team, many hockey fans were milling around Budweiser Gardens before the Memorial Cup championship game on Sunday. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

The final numbers are not in, but the Memorial Cup event manager said there is "no question" the 10-day tournament will make a profit.

That puts the four-team Canadian Hockey League championship one step ahead of last year's debacle in Saskatoon, where the host team lost about $1 million after pledging a guarantee of $3.5 million.

Gary Curgin, president of CSTT Sports Management in London, was hired to manage the event on behalf of London Knights owners Dale and Mark Hunter. He said he expects a positive cash flow at the end of the accounting process.

Curgin would not reveal what the Hunters put forward to win the right to host the tournament, but several sources say the Knights' guarantee was at least a million dollars less than what Saskatoon put forward.

One major difference for the London bid was that the Hunter brothers wrote the cheque themselves, therefore not putting any burden on the city or the province, such as what happened in Saskatchewan.

"They are the ones who put up the money, and (if there's a profit), they only get 1/20th of the money. You've got to give them credit for that," Curgin said.

Any profits are divided by the 20 teams in the OHL, despite 19 teams having no financial risk.

Curgin said the host organizing committee deserves credit for the tournament's success, especially after the Knights were eliminated early. And the weather on the first weekend didn't help either, he said.

"We had to recoup after Wednesday night (the third Knights' loss). Actually, we were all in shock," he said. "(Host chair) Trevor Whiffen said to me, 'Never thought in the 10 months we were planning — what if?'"

Curgin said ticket sales — all eight games were virtual sellouts of close to 9,000 — and the yeoman work of the sponsorship committee assured that the tournament would be a financial success.

"They exceeded their goal for sponsorship, and you can see from the event it was spectacular," he said.

A strong 10-day commitment to the military was another reason for Curgin and the tournament committee to be happy with its work. They handed over more than $100,000 to Parkwood Hospital, double what they aimed for.

He also took time to thank the more than 500 volunteers, led by a team of 22 organizing committee vice-chairs. All were treated to a wrap-up dinner Monday night at the beer tent prepared by Joe Kool's restaurant.

"Our goal was to do it bigger and better than 2005," Curgin said "The result on the ice wasn't the same, but we feel as a committee, we did do it bigger and better."

Tune deficit

Music and hockey did not mesh

Memorial Cup event manager Gary Curgin said he would make one change if London was to host the event for a third time.

And that involves the beer tent and the music. The city bylaw of not allowing music after 11 p.m. was part of the challenge.

"You kind of have to have a beer tent, but I would almost want to rework that, just to have entertainment before the games," he said.

Waiting for the game to be completed — including one triple overtime — and allowing some extra time for interviews in the adjacent media tent forced some of the bands to play for as little as 20 minutes.

'Solid' year reported by London's airport

A plane gets ready for fuelling at the London airport. The facility is reporting big numbers in its latest annual report. METRO FILE

More cargo, but fewer people, are moving through London's airport, which had a surplus of more than $1 million in 2013.

A dip in passenger numbers, to 448,751 from 465,704 in 2012 is mostly due to the loss of one service — Westjet's flights to Las Vegas — said London International Airport president and CEO Mike Seabrook.

He said the overall picture is "healthy," with a gradual increase in use of the airport's cargo terminal, built in 2010 using $11 million of public money. It's now operating at 76 per cent capacity.

According to plan

"We've made some strategic investments. We certainly improved our results."

London International Airport president and CEO Mike Seabrook

"I think it's a good, solid year," Seabrook said about figures in the 2013 annual report. "We've made some strategic investments. We certainly improved our results."

Passenger numbers fluctuate each year, he explained, and 2014 is already trending up on last year.

The surplus is one of the glowing figures in the annual report, along with strong passenger satisfaction: 88 per cent rated their experience highly.

As for cargo, there was a 60 per cent increase in tonnage moving through the facility, with a total of 1.4 million pounds of freight in 2013. There was also an investment of $1.6 million in capital projects, including amenities for travellers.

Then there's the value to London. Property taxes of $674,123 were paid in 2013.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Surplus

$1.186M

London International Airport's surplus for 2013

Chief of defence claims military knows location of kidnapped girls

Abuja, Nigeria. Military official won't elaborate on location of students, suggests using force to rescue them will result in their deaths

Nigeria's chief of defence, Air Marshal Alex Barde, centre, speaks in Abuja, Nigeria, Monday during a demonstration calling on the government to rescue the kidnapped girls of a government school. GBENGA OLAMIKAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria's military has located nearly 300 schoolgirls abducted by Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, but fears using force to try to free them could get them killed, the country's chief of defence said Monday.

Air Marshal Alex Barde told demonstrators that Nigerian troops can save the girls. But he added, "We can't go and kill our girls in the name of trying to get them back."

He spoke to thousands of demonstrators who marched to Defence Ministry headquarters in Abuja, the capital. Many were brought in on buses, indicating it was an organized event.

Asked by reporters where they had found the girls, Barde refused to elaborate.

"We want our girls back. I can tell you we can do it. Our military can do it. But where they are held, can we go with force?" he asked the crowd.

People roared back, "No!"

"If we go with force what will happen?" he asked.

"They will die," the demonstrators said.

"Nobody should come and say the Nigerian military does not know what it is doing. We know what we are doing," Barde insisted.

Nigeria's military and government have faced national and international outrage over their failure to rescue the girls seized by Boko Haram militants from a remote northeastern school six weeks ago.

President Goodluck Jonathan was forced this month to accept international help. American planes have been searching for the girls. Britain, France, Israel and other countries have sent experts in surveillance and hostage negotiation. Jonathan's reluctance to accept help for weeks is seen as unwillingness to have outsiders looking in on what is considered a corrupt force.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Developing world

Birth, death data vital for health of children, mothers

For one million babies born every year, it's as if they were never here.

That's how many newborns die on the day of their birth, along with millions more in their first month of life, all without ever having been formally documented.

The lack of vital birth and death registration in poor countries will be a major topic of discussion at this week's international meeting on improving the plight of children, newborns and mothers in developing countries.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is hosting the three-day conference in Toronto.

Rosemary McCarney, the co-chair of the Canadian Network for Maternal Newborn and Child Health, says birth registration is a key to making progress on the issue.

She says knowing about births, deaths and cause of death is key to bringing down mortality rates and improving the health of the most vulnerable women and children in poor countries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawsuit. Woman alleges RCMP officers pulled her from shower, left her nude

A Manitoba woman is suing six RCMP officers, claiming they pulled her from a shower and left her shivering and naked in her kitchen during a search of her home.

The woman alleges in a lawsuit filed last week that the September 2012 incident has left her with post-traumatic stress disorder, fear of being alone and a fear of showering, as well as emotional trauma.

The lawsuit alleges the woman was taken from her main-floor bathroom shower during the mid-morning raid and kept in custody, without any clothing, in the kitchen while police searched her home.

"The plaintiff was kept in the kitchen without access to covers for a period of time," the statement of claim says. "The plaintiff began hyperventilating and experiencing shock-like symptoms."

It claims the woman, who works as a hospital medical technician, was eventually taken to hospital in an ambulance. She is seeking unspecified damages, including punitive damages and costs.

Quoted

"The plaintiff began hyperventilating and experiencing shock-like symptoms."

Statement of claim from Manitoba woman, who alleges RCMP officers left her naked in her kitchen while they searched her home

"As a result of the injuries which the plaintiff received from the defendants, the plaintiff has suffered out-of-pocket expenses including loss of wages in an amount to be proven at trial," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit says Mounties raided the house while executing a search warrant as part of an investigation, but does not elaborate. Daniel Minuk, the woman's lawyer, declined to comment on the lawsuit or its allegations.

Tara Seel, media relations officer with the RCMP, said it would be inappropriate to comment since the matter is now before the courts.

No statement of defence has been filed. The woman's claims have not been proven in court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Official's visit renews talk of a Canadian Caribbean

The premier of Turks and Caicos is leaving the door open to the prospect of his country joining Canada, even though he opposed the idea in the past.

But Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird suggested Monday that Canadians are dreaming if they think they'll have a province in the Caribbean any time soon.

Turks and Caicos Premier Rufus Ewing met Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa, where he says the two leaders spoke about exploring a more formal relationship. Ewing described the meeting as a "courtship," but said the pair did not discuss the possibility of Turks and Caicos becoming Canada's 11th province.

The idea, however, is not out of the question, Ewing suggested during a news conference following the meeting.

"It is not of my mandate to close the door," he said. "It is my mandate to see Turks and Caicos have sustainable economic growth and development and development of our people … and we look to Canada, who has shown by example of being a very strong democracy."

Cruisegoers enjoy the beach at the Grand Turk Cruise Terminal in Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Even creating closer ties is a long shot, said Baird: The Harper government is not exploring a stronger relationship, let alone considering a plan to annex the British colonial territory.

"We're not in the business of annexing islands in the Caribbean to be part of Canada, so that's not something that we're exploring," said Baird.

"We're not looking at any sort of formal association with the islands."

Some provinces, however, appear open to the idea.

While Ewing was in Ottawa, P.E.I. Premier Robert Ghiz tweeted to Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall that he'd be happy to partner with the Prairie province on the Turks and Caicos project.

Conservative MP Peter Goldring has been pushing the idea for more than a decade, arguing that Canada needs its own Hawaii.

Canada enjoyed strong economic ties with Turks and Caicos in the 1800s, largely through the salt trade.

Turks and Caicos is currently a British territory with an elected legislature.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A special on curl-ups with carrot cans in aisle 3?

Fitting in fitness.
You can work on your six-pack for free, and pick up a six-pack, at one Albany, N.Y., grocery store

A grocery store in Albany, N.Y., offers a free gym open to anyone, just past the pharmacy. MIKE GROLL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Ann Lawson strolls into her neighbourhood grocery store, she really gets a workout.

That's because her Hannaford supermarket has a small gym located just past the pharmacy counter. It has treadmills, stationary bicycles, various other cardio machines, even a state-of-the-art Zumba room with a shiny wooden floor.

And best of all, it's free.

"It's about me getting healthy and losing some of this excess weight," Lawson said. "And I like the idea of being able to work out and shop in one trip."

Maine-based Hannaford insists the 5,600-square-foot health facility that opened in October is not part of some shrewd marketing campaign. The Albany, N.Y., store is the only one in the 184-store chain with such a gym, and there are no plans for more.

The idea grew out of a meeting last summer between Hannaford, the local YMCA and the health-care provider Capital District Physicians' Health Plan. All said their goal was to come up with something to improve the area's health while also being convenient, accessible and free.

Store manager Dave Farrell, an admitted "exercise fool" who has dropped 86 pounds in the last year, said gym-goers don't have to shop in the store — they just fill out paperwork on the first visit and are given fobs to swipe when they stop by.

So far, just over 1,100 people have signed up, and the exercise classes are packed.

"Obviously, we've had people use it who weren't customers and have decided to shop in the store," Farrell said. "It's definitely a win for us, but that wasn't the goal."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Where to put nuclear waste?

Nuclear power plants across the United States are building or expanding storage facilities to hold their spent fuel — radioactive waste that by now was supposed to be on its way to a national dump.

The steel and concrete containers used to store the waste on-site were envisioned as only a short-term solution when introduced in the 1980s. Now they are the subject of reviews by industry and government to determine how they might hold up — if needed — for decades or longer.

With nowhere else to put its nuclear waste, the Millstone Power Station overlooking Long Island Sound is sealing it up in massive steel canisters on what used to be a parking lot. The storage pad, first built in 2005, was recently expanded to make room for seven times as many canisters filled with spent fuel.

Dan Steward, the first selectman in Waterford, which hosts Millstone, said he raises the issue every chance he can with Connecticut's congressional members.

"We do not want to become a nuclear waste site as a community," Steward said.

The government is pursuing a new plan for nuclear waste storage, hoping to break an impasse left by the collapse of a proposal for Nevada's Yucca Mountain. The Energy Department says it expects other states will compete for a repository, and the accompanying economic benefits, and it's already heard from potential hosts in New Mexico, Texas and Mississippi. But the plan faces hurdles including a need for new legislation that has stalled in Congress.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Multi-year deal

TSN to develop content for Canadian Tire

Canadian Tire Corp. has signed a multi-year deal with TSN that will see the sports broadcaster develop and produce content for the retailer's advertising.

The partnership covers all of the Canadian Tire banners, including Sport Chek, Mark's and Sports Experts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rio casino

Betting on a zip line in Sin City

Officials at the Rio casino are celebrating the grand opening of a zip line that runs between two of the resort's towers and offers views of the Las Vegas Strip.

Mixed martial arts announcer Bruce Buffer is expected to yell his signature catchphrase "It's time!" at noon on Sunday and then take a ride on the VooDoo Zip Line as part of the ceremony. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
92.08¢
(+0.08¢)

TSX
14,715.69
(+7.59)

Natural gas: $4.39 US (-$0.01)
Other markets closed for Memorial Day in the U.S.

Please *do not* turn that off

The directive to "Please turn off your portable electronic devices" is becoming a thing of the past for Canadian air travellers. Transport Minister Lisa Raitt says regulations are being changed to permit the use of video games, tablets, computers and cameras at any time during a flight, including during takeoff and landing. PHOTO: SANDRA MU/GETTY IMAGES; TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Down on your luck? Write to the Buffetts

When Warren Buffett announced in 2006 that he would give away his billions, he was flooded with individual requests for help that still flow in today.

Instead of tossing the letters aside, Buffett packages them up and sends them to his big sister Doris. With the help of seven women, her Sunshine Lady Foundation scrutinizes each request to find people who have come upon bad luck through no fault of their own.

"She just believes that a lot of people got short straws in life, and she wants to help them," Warren Buffett said.

It's rare for philanthropists to respond to individual requests, said Northeastern University professor Rebecca Riccio, who teaches philanthropy and interviewed the siblings last year. Buffett, 83, and his 86-year-old sister worked out the unusual arrangement because neither wanted to disregard the requests, but Buffett also wanted to focus on running Berkshire Hathaway.

"I think Warren and Doris do not have it in them to ignore those letters," Riccio said.

Warren Buffett sent his sister $5 million US initially to cover the cost of responding to his letters and promised more money if she needed it. The siblings didn't want to say exactly how much Doris has given to the letter writers so far.

Many of the requests are simple: A man who needed a new glass eye. The grandmother who wanted a tombstone for the three children she lost.

"These are decent people who just didn't have the breaks somebody else did," Doris Buffett said.

She said her drive to help people developed during the Great Depression, when she saw people struggling with such basic needs as hunger and shelter. That desire grew as she faced her own disappointments, including four divorces and the loss of a $12-million fortune in the stock market crash of 1987.

Doris Buffett started the Sunshine Lady Foundation in 1996 after inheriting money. Through it, she has also given away $150 million of her own money, focusing on larger programs such as scholarships for domestic violence victims, college education for prison inmates and efforts to help people with mental illnesses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUT WHICH BRO ARE YOU, BRO?

SHE SAYS

Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

The world of online dating is a wondrous novelty to me. I'm not sure if I would have ended up with my own significant other — whom I met unromantically, at a bar — if I had relied on a digital matchmaking service that allows you to filter potential partners by age, race, religion, geography, height, body type and annual income.

Sophisticated algorithms might help users narrow down their search, but we all know that a carefully selected profile photo can make or break your chances of finding a date. Some sites such as Match.com and eHarmony allow users to post an entire catalogue of images, while popular matchmaking app Tinder limits users to just five well-chosen snapshots.

I spent the weekend scrolling through profiles on various digital dating services with a few of my single girlfriends — in the name of research, of course — to find out what influences a woman's decision to swipe right and say yes to a date. In the course of this exceedingly important investigation, I discovered there are numerous things that make women cringe when it comes to first-impression photos.

The top five things all the single ladies really don't want to see on your profile:

• **Your ex:** It's perplexing to see how many men think posting a romantic vacation photo with their ex-girlfriend might help them snag a date. I don't care if you look incredibly handsome in that picture in front of the Eiffel Tower; coupled-up images suggest you are still invested in your previous relationship or have absolutely no idea how to upload new content to the Internet.

• **Group shots:** We get it, you love your bros. You have so many bros, but which bro are you, bro? Dating websites feature thousands of men; your individual profile should be about you and not your posse of pals. Stick to solo images to avoid confusion.

• **Photos of your stuff:** Most women aren't looking to date your motorcycle or your dog and if they are, well they probably still want to see YOU posing with your prized possessions. Uploading standalone images of your condo interior won't help you turn that bachelor pad into a love nest any time soon.

• **Bicep snaps:** It can be hard to find a good collection of recent pictures of yourself, but please stop with the not-so-discrete snapshots of you flexing at the gym. According to a survey by dating website Zoosk, a man is 19 per cent more likely to receive a message from a woman if he posts an image of himself doing something outdoors. So step away from the mirror and get outside.

• **Archival images:** It doesn't take a detective to figure out that a 36-year-old man who uploads a snapshot of himself doing a keg stand at a frat party might be stuck in the past. Remember that you're looking for someone to date you, not "20 pounds ago and with way more hair" you. Avoid disappointment by being honest with yourself and potential love interests.

Follow Jessica Napier on Twitter @MetroSheSays

ZOOM

Lali, Lela, Lila, Lulu and Obama

Five Bengal white tiger cubs born on April 25 were unveiled to the public at the White Zoo in Kernhof, Austria, on Monday. RONALD ZAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cubs make their grand entrance

A litter of rare tigers made their debut at a zoo in Austria.

According to the zoo, it's the first time five white tiger cubs were born in a single litter in Europe. The four female and one male are all healthy and doing well.

"We are very, very proud and very happy, because they are totally normal, there is nothing wrong (with them)," said zoo director Herbert Eder. WPTV.COM

Rare beauty makes them targets

The cubs' mother, named Burani, was brought to the zoo from Germany three years ago and this is her third litter.

The father, named Samir, has fathered 14 cubs.

Eder says, "They are not hand-tamed, and not together with people; they are together with their mother."

The white tigers' unique colour means they're targeted by poachers and nearly extinct in the wild. WPTV.COM

By the numbers

500

There are only a small quantity of white tigers in existence and the current population is estimated at approximately 500. With the inevitable inbreeding problems, a debate continually rages over the wisdom of breeding this animal.

SOURCE: INDIANTIGER.ORG

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metro AR

In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 9 in Scene and page 13 in Sports

To see pages from Metro spring to life, simply download or update the Metro News app available from your device's app store and follow these three easy steps:

1. Open the Metro News app on your smartphone or tablet device. Click the AR icon in the top right corner.

2. Hold your device over any image that has the AR logo near it. Make sure you wait for the green scanning bar to read the image!

3. Voilà! You should see the AR in action — like a video, slide show or mobile content experience. You can even move your phone away from the page and interact with the content directly on your device.

MetroTube

Wicked smart birds!

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

If there's one fun fact we all took away from Jurassic Park, it's that a closed door would be no match for those crafty velociraptors. "Life finds a way," is how a great man put it.

Smash cut to a few million years later, and we find things haven't changed a whole lot. These clever swallows, residents of the University of Victoria's Campus Bike Centre, are doing their much larger ancestors proud by laughing at our obstacle-based achievements and the motion sensors that guard them.
(Via Grant Hughes/YouTube)

ISTOCK PHOTO

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See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app. Charlize Theron takes aim at a few targets!

DVD review

Super Duper Alice Cooper

Directors. Reginald Harkema, Scot McFadyen, Sam Dunn

Stars. Alice Cooper

Fans of original shock rocker Alice Cooper, well served by this loving chronicle by Reginald Harkema, Scot McFadyen and Sam Dunn, may be surprised to learn that the frontman didn't strut fully formed out of a 1970s gateway from hell.

First he was art nerd Vince Furnier, a preacher's son from Arizona, who got his stage name from a Ouija board, band outfits from the Ice Capades and attitude from a "moral compass" that could also point to the dark side.

The doc's funniest moments chronicle his early days, including his performance epiphany in Detroit, his actual birthplace, where he feels audiences first really got his band's blend of music and Grand Guignol theatre: garish eye makeup, faked onstage executions (with a realistic guillotine and hangman's noose), dead baby dolls and other plastic cadavers strewn about.

You'll laugh, you'll cry, but oh you billion dollar babies, you'll rawk.

Extras include deleted scenes and rarely seen concert footage. **PETER HOWELL**

Charlize Theron risks it all for a Million Ways to Die

Wild, wild western. The Oscar winner risked life and limb to bring Seth MacFarlane's spoof A Million Ways to Die in the West to life, but was it worth it?

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

While you might think Seth MacFarlane had to chase down Charlize Theron to convince her to co-star in his cowboy comedy, A Million Ways to Die in the West, the Oscar-winning actress insists it was the other way around.

"I got to read this pretty early on," she says of the script for the film, which skewers old-fashioned westerns and life on the frontier.

"Just the idea of doing something that's pitched in this very unusual way of a comedy-western situation and him at the helm of that, that to me was very intriguing. So I definitely did some chasing."

But a few weeks on location in New Mexico, risking life and limb, quickly had Theron rethinking her decision.

Storm's a brewin'

"I felt like it was like biblical times, and we were all going to die a horrible death by weather."

Charlize Theron, actress, on weather issues while filming in New Mexico

Anna (Charlize Theron) and Albert (Seth MacFarlane) try not to die at the fair in A Million Ways to Die in the West, the new comedy from director, producer and co-writer MacFarlane. UNIVERSAL PICTURES

"Look, it's a gorgeous place. I understand why you want to paint it. I would want to paint it. I don't necessarily want to go and shoot in it again. It's just like the weather was unbelievable. I felt like it was like biblical times, and we were all going to die a horrible death by weather," she says. "I mean, there was a night where we shot, and Seth left before me. I got a text from him that literally just said, 'The road is washing away! Get out of your trailer right now and start driving!' And I was like, 'I'm going to die on this movie.'"

Of course, all that risking life and limb can help bring a cast together, and Theron is particularly fond of her co-stars on this one, including MacFarlane, Neil Patrick Harris, Giovanni Ribisi, Sarah Silverman and Amanda Seyfried.

"There really wasn't a bad apple in the bunch. It really was just a bunch of great people together having fun, working hard, there for the right reasons, wanting to make the movie the best they possibly could," Theron says. "We laughed a lot, and drank a lot, and almost died together a lot. So we are bonded for life."

One particular co-star does stand out: Taken star Liam Neeson, who plays villainous outlaw Clinch Leatherwood.

"I think all of us were a little star-struck," she admits. "There was definitely that [whispering], 'Liam's here. Yeah?' 'I saw a car by his trailer.' 'Is he here?' 'Is he coming to set?' 'Wow.' Like, trying to be cool when I met first him. There's something about him. He is not just the one-dimensional actor, no matter what he does. And I think that's why people are so endeared by him and why you emotionally tap into him, no matter what he plays. And he plays the baddie in this so convincingly, but there's a realness about him. He's not putting it on. It's always coming from a place of understanding and empathy. It's not plastered or mechanical."

James Franco ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Franco, my dear, perhaps your dates don't give a tweet

Dating didn't apparently come easy to James Franco, as the Palo Alto star admits high school was a bit rough. "I wasn't the best socializer," Franco says. "I was shy, but I had a girlfriend named Jasmine my last two years. I was lucky to have someone who stuck around like that. I was a little confused and mixed up when it came to dating." And when it comes to dating today, with the help of social media and mobile technology? "You get to know someone much quicker," he says. "The downside is when people aren't tech savvy and don't express themselves well through digital media." So get with the tweeting, ladies.

Christina Ricci

Addams Family star goes bump overnight

Christina Ricci is going to be a mom. The Addams Family star is expecting her first child with husband James Heerdegen, she confirms to Entertainment Tonight. The two met while making the short-lived TV series Pan Am in 2012 and tied the knot in October 2013 in a private ceremony in New York City. Ricci has done a remarkable job of keeping the pregnancy quiet, as when she finally stepped out at LAX this weekend her baby bump was impressively far along.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Ellen Page's dream man is the Biebs!?

Ellen Page has been having some weird dreams, she tells Conan O'Brien during an interview. "My anxiety dreams tend to always relate to pubic hair," Page says. "So I'll be, like, on stage getting ready to act, and I'm just in my underwear, and I just look down and it might as well be an old man's beard or something. Or I'll be topless and it will be up to my (chest). Like a reverse hairy chest." But her dreams haven't all been anxiety-inducing. For instance, there was one about Justin Bieber that she actually enjoyed. "We were in his, like, childhood home in Canada, just hanging out, and his mom came home with takeout from Ikea, and we were like, 'Yeah!'" Page explains. "We were stoked. We were like, 'Yes, our favourite!'" For the record, Page has never actually met Bieber.

Kanye West and Kim Kardashian

Cork resort can't comment on Kim and Kanye's country canoodling

When it comes to all things West-Kardashian, perhaps you empathize with the item entitled "Alert (yawn): Kimye weds" that just appeared in the New York Post. "Two jackasses got married in Italy Saturday," the piece declared.

On the other hand, perhaps you'd really like to know where the couple is honeymooning. According to The Daily Mail, the pair landed at Cork airport in their private jet Sunday and drove off in "a fleet of limousines." They're apparently going to stay in Ireland for five days, and are "rumoured to be staying at the luxurious five-star Castlemartyr Resort — a half-hour drive east of Cork city. Castlemartyr staff said they 'could not comment' on whether it was Kanye who booked the Presidential suite of the 17th-century country manor."

El Paso search leaves Wiz in the lurch

Wiz Khalifa

Authorities say rapper Wiz Khalifa has been arrested in West Texas for marijuana possession. The performer was stopped at an inspection checkpoint at the El Paso airport. A statement from El Paso police says because Khalifa travelled without identification, a search was ordered and Transportation Security Administration agents found a canister with marijuana. TSA alerted police, who then arrested Khalifa. He was charged with misdemeanour possession of marijuana and was released after posting $300 bail. Khalifa posted a photo on Twitter inside of what appeared to be a holding cell.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter

@carrieffisher
Saying that you're an alcoholic AND an addict, is like saying you're from London AND England.....

@JasonAlexander
Like Hef, I worked all day in my pajamas. Unlike Hef, my day didn't end with a menage in the grotto.

@WhitneyCummings
Nothing like a beautiful wedding to make you nostalgic for the things in your past that never happened

Fill avocado to the very top

It's a fruit but tastes like a vegetable and is a "good" fat.
It would be such a waste not to make the most of its deliciousness.
Double up on the goodness by trying one (or all) of these eight wholesome fillings.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS Metro World News in London

1 fried egg
1/4 tsp chili flakes
1 tsp bacon bits

2 tbsp blueberries
1 tbsp yogurt
1 tsp honey

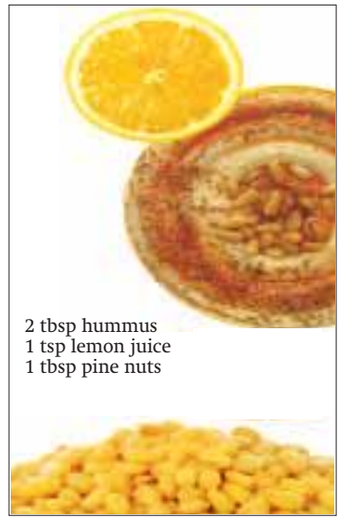
1 tbsp pomegranate seeds
1 tbsp quinoa
1 tbsp chopped pistachios

2 tbsp brown rice
1 tsp mustard seeds
1 tsp eggplant

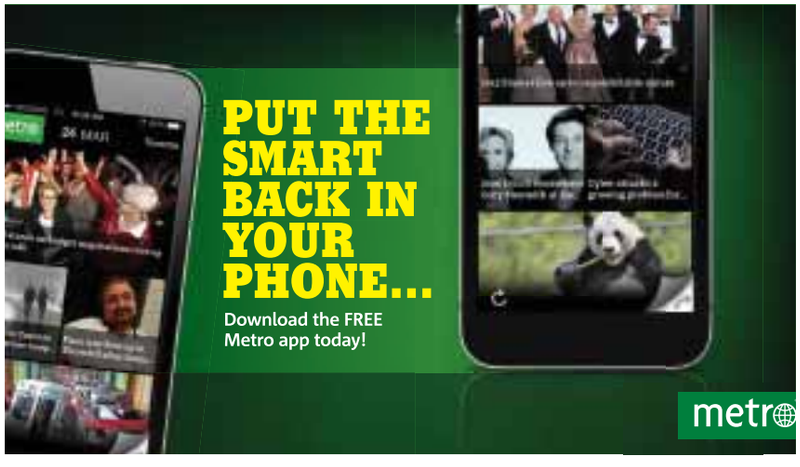
1 tbsp feta
1 tbsp black beans
1 oz shredded chicken

1 tbsp coconut yogurt
1 tbsp almond flakes
1 tbsp dried figs

1 tbsp chocolate chips
1 tbsp mashed banana
1 tbsp cottage cheese



2 tbsp hummus
1 tsp lemon juice
1 tbsp pine nuts



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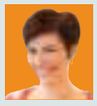
Health Solutions

Wake up the palate and eat healthy, too



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

Sun-dried tomatoes came into their own in the '80s but they remain a killer ingredient for a reason.

They have an intense taste that wakes up the palate but they also bring with them the nutrients that a tomato is famous for.

Lycopene is an antioxidant best known for its suspected role in helping prevent prostate cancer.

But it's also been studied for its help in preventing or treating inflammation, age-related eye disease and lung conditions. Buying the tomatoes desiccated and packaged on their own is your healthiest option; they simply require plumping in hot water for 30 minutes or so before use.

The easiest choice though is to buy them in oil, drain and chop them into salads, on pizza, into any Mediterranean rice or pasta dish.

Don't toss the oil that the tomatoes come in, though! It is highly flavoured and ready to be used in salad dressings or bread dips.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Sun-dried tomatoes add a punch of 'kapow' to steak

THERESA ALBERT
myfriendinfood.com

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

I find grilled steak kind of one-dimensional and in want of a punch. This drizzle adds moisture and a left hook of flavour that is a knockout.

Mixing together the primary ingredients to use as a marinade pulls double-duty. It protects the meal from creating harmful substances on the grill and adds flavour.

A quick addition of capers and sun-dried tomatoes makes a topping.

1. Mix together oil, vinegar, oregano, garlic, pepper, salt and mustard.

2. Pour half onto steak and rub into both sides, marinate for up to 24 hours in the fridge or 20 minutes on the counter.

3. Preheat grill or grill pan.

4. Grill steak for 2-4 minutes per side over high heat.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp vinegar
- 1 tbsp oregano
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 tsp fresh ground pepper
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 4 small striploin steaks
- 1/4 cup capers
- 1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes, oil-packed

This recipe serves six. COURTESY THERESA ALBERT

5. Meanwhile mix remaining half of oil-and-vinegar mixture with capers and drained sun dried tomatoes.

6. Spoon caper mixture over cooked steak and serve with a side salad. **THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND TORONTO PERSONAL NUTRITIONIST. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM**

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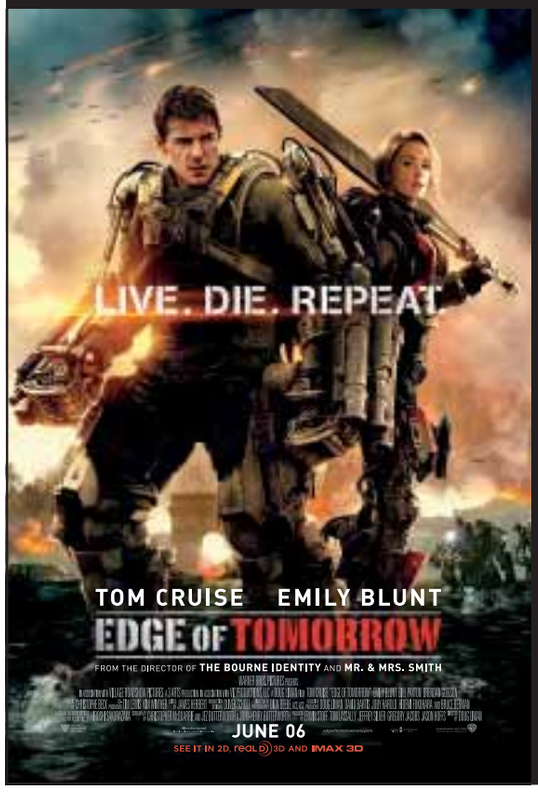
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NHL

Capitals shore up GM, coach roles

The Washington Capitals promoted Brian MacLellan to general manager and hired former Nashville Predators coach Barry Trotz on Monday.

MacLellan, who spent seven seasons as assistant GM, replaces George McPhee, whose contract was not renewed after 17 seasons with the Capitals. MacLellan will also get the title of senior vice-president.

Trotz was the Predators' coach for 15 seasons before being dropped from the job in April. In Washington, he takes over for Adam Oates, who was fired with a season left on his three-year deal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA playoffs

Heat's Lewis scores a statistical rarity

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra calls Rashard Lewis's latest performance "basically, one of my favourite stat lines of all time."

The box score from Game 3 of the Eastern Conference final says Lewis did basically nothing in his 17 minutes of action Saturday. Lewis had no points, no rebounds, no assists and no steals in Miami's 99-87 win over Indiana — and the Heat outscored the Pacers by 21 points when the veteran forward was in the game, mainly as a defender.

According to STATS, since plus-minus started being charted, no one ever was better than a plus-10 in an NBA playoff game without generating any points, rebounds, assists or steals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadiens goalie Dustin Tokarski stops a shot during practice on Monday in Brossard, Que. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Habs draw on past experience for hope

NHL playoffs. Montreal looks to repeat 2010 feat of overcoming 3-1 series deficit

It was up to veterans Brian Gionta and Tomas Plekanec to convince the world, and perhaps themselves, that the Montreal Canadiens still have hope.

The team that looked so solid in coming back to eliminate the first-place overall Boston Bruins is down 3-1 to the New York Rangers in the NHL Eastern Conference final, but Gionta insisted Monday that morale is good and the Canadiens are far from finished.

They will be facing elimination in Game 5 of the best-of-seven series at the Bell Centre on Tuesday night, however.

"It's no secret: You start doing the right things, you start getting rewarded for it and momentum builds," Gionta said. "You keep carrying that.

"A couple of teams have been able to do that this year, the Kings and the Rangers. So it's not something that can't be done and with the group we have in here, we believe we can do it. And we believe we've got better as the series goes on."

Gionta and Plekanec were part of a Canadiens team that came back from a 3-1 deficit to upset the high-powered Washington Capitals en route to their last trip to the conference final in 2010.

They did it that time with desperate shot-blocking, spectacular goaltending from Jaroslav Halak and a quiet belief that they could pull it off.

This time, they are looking to third-stringer Dustin Tokarski to imitate Halak. The 24-year-old has been solid in goal since replacing the injured Carey Price in Game 2, allowing eight goals in 11 periods over three games.

He helped them claim an overtime win in New York in Game 3 but was beaten on Martin St. Louis' overtime snipe in Game 4 on Sunday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Price back on the ice

Carey Price, who is out with a suspected knee injury, skated for about 20 minutes without equipment before the team's optional practice Monday, but coach Michel Therrien said he will not be back in this series.

Rain fails to slow Bouchard

About the only thing getting between Canadian tennis star Eugenie Bouchard and a berth in the second round of the French Open was the weather.

Bouchard overcame a rain interruption of nearly 90 minutes before finishing off a decisive 6-0, 6-2 win over Israel's Shahar Peer on Tuesday.

The tournament's 18th seed beat Peer for the second time this season and fourth in her career over 58 minutes of actual playing time.

Montreal's Bouchard, the 20-year-old former junior Wimbledon champion, arrived to Roland Garros with her highest career WTA ranking. She moved up to 16th after winning her first WTA title on Saturday, beating Karolina Pliskova in the final of the Nuremberg clay court tournament.

"Today the court was actually a bit slower because of the conditions," said Bouchard. "I find the courts here are generally like fast clay courts, so I like them. It's fine for me."

Bouchard next plays the winner of a match between Germany's Julia Goerges and Michelle Larcher de Brito of Portugal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

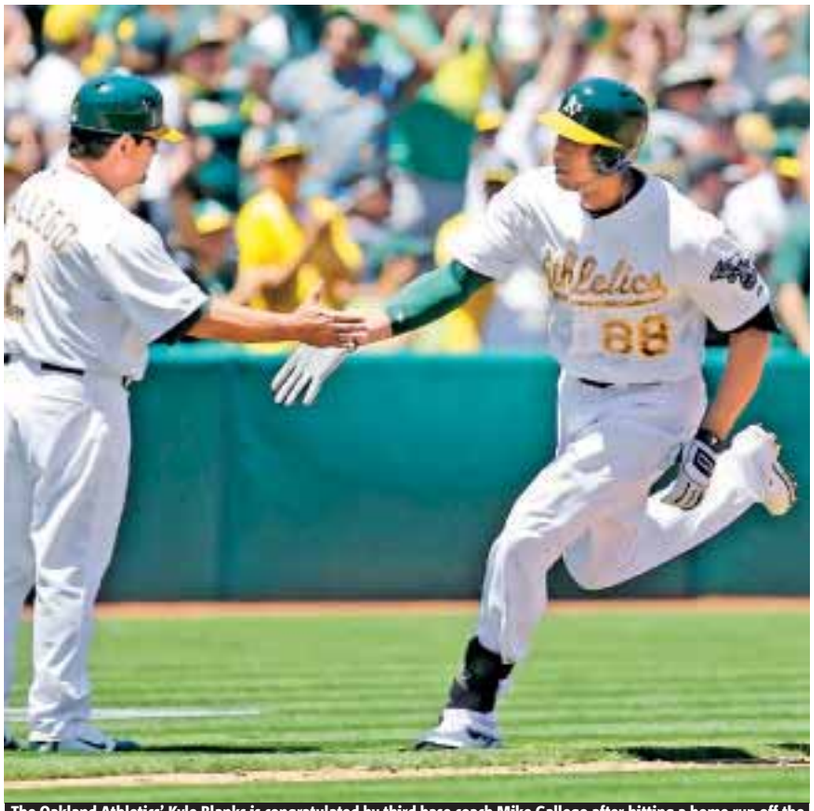
Faith in her game

"I'm confident, but I'm usually always confident and believe in myself, and know whenever I walk on the court I always believe I can win the match." Eugenie Bouchard

Eugenie Bouchard returns a shot during her women's singles match against Shahar Peer at the French Open on Monday in Paris. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

Using the Metro News app, scan the image to find out which recent Grand Slam tournament winner failed to advance past the French Open's first round.

4 SPORTS



The Oakland Athletics' Kyle Blanks is congratulated by third base coach Mike Gallego after hitting a home run off the Detroit Tigers' Drew Smyly in the second inning on Monday in Oakland. BEN MARGOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blanks helps A's blank Tigers and fill in win column

MLB. Oakland snaps 4-game losing streak with 5 booming bats

Kyle Blanks homered in his home debut at the Coliseum and Derek Norris capped Oakland's five-homer day with a grand slam and the Athletics snapped a season-long four-game losing streak with a 10-0 win over the Detroit Tigers on Monday.

Brandon Moss and Josh Donaldson each hit their 12th home run and Yoenis Cespedes also went deep for the A's, who broke out of their recent slump by getting homers from five players for the first time since 2009.

That backed another strong start from Tommy Milone (3-3), who allowed four hits in 6 2/3 scoreless innings to improve to 3-0 with a 1.03 ERA in his past four starts.

The A's got four solo homers against Drew Smyly to win the first meeting of the season against the team that eliminated them in Game 5 of the division series the past two post-seasons.

Oakland returned home mired in its worst skid of the season, having scored seven runs in their four losses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Monday

Athletics	Tigers
10	0

Around the league

- **Red Sox 8, Braves 6.** David Ortiz homered and drove in four runs as the Boston Red Sox ended their 10-game losing streak, rallying from a five-run deficit to defeat the Atlanta Braves.
- **Orioles 7, Brewers 6.** Jonathan Schoop hit two homers and newly acquired Nick Hundley singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th as the Baltimore Orioles rallied past the Milwaukee Brewers.
- **Pirates 5, Mets 3.** Gaby Sanchez hit a tiebreaking single in a come-from-behind win over New York.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is no point trying to predict what will happen over the next few days. Just stay calm and be ready to act when big events happen.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You need to be a bit more serious about your cash flow situation. Tomorrow's new moon will make it clear where and how savings need to be made. No more shopping sprees for you — for now.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
With a powerful new moon in your sign over the next three days there is no way you can go wrong — and even if you do go wrong it will somehow turn out right. Aim for the sky.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What you decide over the next few weeks, and especially over the next few days, will form the basis of your reality for the coming year. Find a quiet place where you can be alone with your thoughts.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Friendships and group activities are highlighted today and all week, so get out and mix with all sorts of people — every one of them will have something to teach you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you are in any way dissatisfied with your lot, now is the time to do something about it. The approaching new moon means that changes are good for you, especially those to do with your career.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It will feel as if a great weight has been lifted from your shoulders today. Money worries, especially, will begin to fade and you can start having fun again.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The upcoming new moon will give you the motivation and energy you need to make a start on a project you have been flirting with for weeks, months, maybe even years.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Anything of a one-to-one nature, be it personal, professional or financial, can be changed for the better over the next few days. Romance is especially well starred.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Even you can recognize that certain ways of doing things are not working as well as they should. It's time to push your ego to one side and admit that changes are needed.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The approaching new moon encourages you to believe that you can get away with anything. If you act as if it is true, you will no doubt do something amazing.

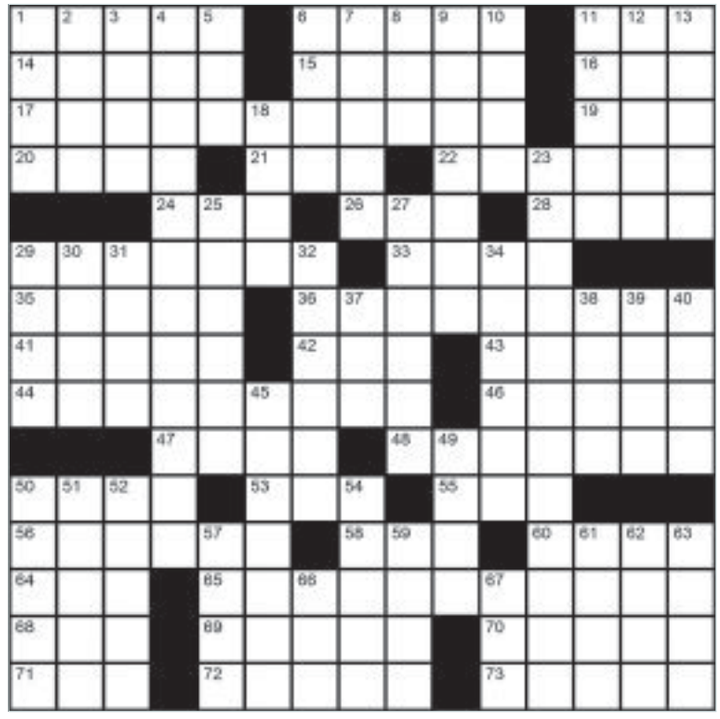
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Over the next two or three days you will get the opportunity to find out why loved ones are so uptight. Once you know that it will be quite easy to restore harmony.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

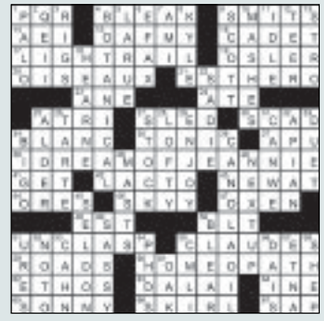
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Comic legend Milton
6. Backs
11. Telly-watcher's network
14. Sneezer's sound!
15. Classical music groups, briefly
16. Mr. Roth
17. Purchase with plastic: 3 wds.
19. __ rummy
20. Alta. neighbour
21. Farm field
22. Green Day's "When I Come __"
24. 'Benedict' suffix
26. Banned pesticide
28. '500' car race
29. Stop broadcasting: 2 wds.
33. Q. "___ Cool J the star of 'NCIS: Los Angeles'?" A. "Yes."
35. Straighten
36. Canada-US: World's longest __ border
41. Shelf sort
42. Melissa __ Anderson
43. Celebrity chef Ms. De Laurentiis
44. Plummer's song in "The Sound of Music" (1965)
46. Calgary neighbourhood
47. __ __ other (Without equals)
48. Bricklaying tools
50. __ up (Escalates)
53. "November Rain" gr.
55. Antacid brand
56. A bite to eat
58. Lute-like instrument
60. Financial investment for the future, commonly
64. Cards symbol
65. Artful Dodger, and cohorts
68. Pronoun
69. Ice Cube, aka __ Jackson
70. Big name in insurance
71. __ Francisco
72. "SCTV" alum Martin
73. Beseech

Down
1. Ms. Streisand, cute-style
2. S. Amer. country
3. Prince Edward's wife, Sophie __-Jones
4. Stratford Festival play currently, Alice Through the __-__
5. Many a moon
6. Canadian comedian Jon
7. Greek mythology nymph
8. Got [abbr.]
9. Acupressure
10. Stars sci.
11. Carpenters' "We've Only Just __"
12. 54-40's "I Go __"
13. Brady Bunch kid
18. Staff symbol
23. Type of job, as on Hibernia: 3 wds.
25. "Still haven't heard a thing...": 2 wds.
27. Reader's __ Canada
29. 'Red tag' event
30. __ _'Orleans, QC
31. 1947 Nobel Prize in Literature winner, Andre __
32. Ford model
34. "Gilligan's Island" water
37. Greek letters
38. Florida: Miami-__ County
39. Leon __, 1963 Pulitzer-winning biographer
40. Author Mr. Brown's
45. One of Canada's official languages
49. Change
50. Accumulate
51. Certain coffee
52. Primp
54. TV weatherman Al
57. Heroic verse
59. __ __ the crack of dawn
61. Network of nerves
62. Commuter ticket buying places, e.g.
63. Health/safety messages, e.g.
66. Comedian Margaret
67. Head covering

Yesterday's Crossword



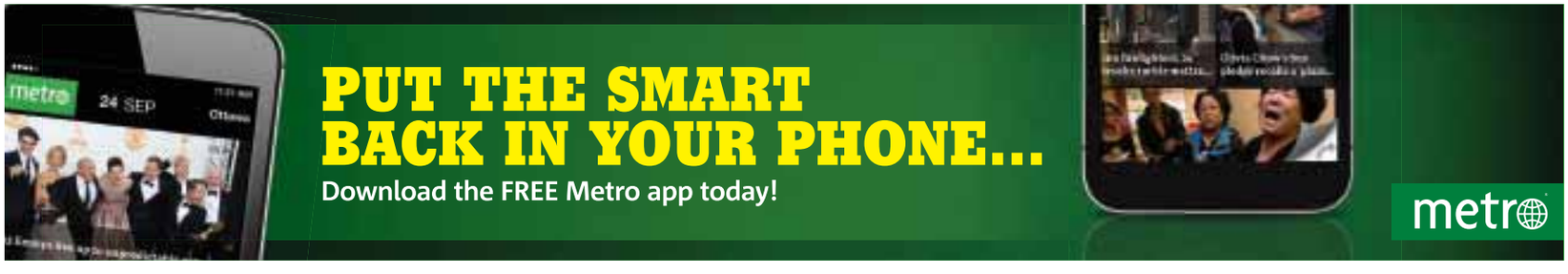
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	1	9	3	6	4	7	8
4	8	3	1	5	7	9	2	6
6	9	7	4	8	2	1	5	3
5	6	4	7	2	3	8	1	9
3	2	9	8	6	1	5	4	7
1	7	8	5	4	9	6	3	2
9	1	6	3	7	5	2	8	4
7	4	5	2	9	8	3	6	1
8	3	2	6	1	4	7	9	5

3			5		4			
		5				8		
			7			1		3
		8			2	3	7	
7				6				2
	1	3	4			9		
6		4			8			
		2				4		
			9		7			6



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